

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING IN PANAMA

MAR 15 TO 21

FOL SENT ACTION USIA INFO PANAMA MAR 23 RD REPEATED FOR YOUR
ACTION:

USIAC

REF: USIA 4488

FOR IOR/ M, ILA, IPS, IBS

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING
IN PANAMA MARCH 15 TO 21

1. SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON PANAMA CANAL REPORTED AND
COMMENTED ON BY SEVERAL PAPERS, HIGHLIGHTED ON TELEVISION.

2. LEFTIST, PRO- CAIRO AL MUHARRIR AND ASH SHAAB STRONGLY
CRITICIZED US ATTITUDE AT COUNCIL DEBATE. AL MYHARRIR
DESCRIBED US ATTITUDE AS " LACKING RESPECT FOR UN." PAPER
ADDED: " PANAMA, WHICH BELIEVES IN VALUE OF UN PRINCIPLES,
REFRAINED FROM RESORTING TO NATIONALIZATION WHICH US,
BRITAIN AND OTHER WESTERN POWERS CONSIDER ILLEGAL. INSTEAD,
IT RESORTED TO SECURITY COUNCIL, DEMANDING AN END FOR
US DOMINATION OF ITS CANAL. ALTHOUGH 12 OUT OF 15 MEMBER
STATES SUPPORTED PANAMA'S REQUEST, US VETOED IT. AFTER
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THIS, US STILL EXPECTS SMALL NATIONS TO BELIEVE IT WHEN IT TALKS ABOUT ITS SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION OF EPOPLE."

3. ASH SHAAB: " IT SEEMS THAT WHOLE WORLD, EXCEPT LATIN AMERICA, WAS MISLED BY US LIBERAL TREND. US WAS ANXIOUS AFTER WAR TO LIQUIDATE BRITISH, FRENCH, JAPANESE AND DUTCH IMPERIALISM BUT ONLY TO REPLACE THEM. IT SUCCEEDED IN ITS AIM THROUGH CALLING FOR LIBERATION AND INDEPENDENCE AND APPOINTED ITSELF GUARDIAN OF MOST PARTS OF WORLD TO SAVE THEM FROM COMMUNIST THREAT AND BLESSING OF REAL LIBERATION AND TO KEEP THEM UNDER MERCY OF US UMBRELLA.. US HAS RESORTED TO VETO ONLY TO MAINTAIN ITS OCCUPATION OF PANAMA CANAL AND TO DEFEND ISRAELI AGGRESSION. IN BOTH CASES IT WAS SUPPORTER OF OLD IMPERIALISM IN ITS CLEAR FORM. UGLY AMERICAN FACE IS REFLECTED ON WATERS OF PANAMA AND SUEZ CANALS AS WELL AS ON ALL CLEAR OR DIRTY WATERS IN WORLD."

4. INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR SAID: " WHILE USSR WAS RESORTING TO VETO IN SUPPORT OF THIRD WORLD CAUSES, US HAS RESORTED TO IT TWICE IN LESS THAN ONE YEAR: FIRST, AGAINST LEBANON TO PREVENT CONDEMNATION OF ISRAELI AGGRESSION AND SECOND YESTERDAY AGAINST SMALL STATE THAT IS SMALLER THAN LEBANON. NOTHING HAS CHANGED REGARDING SECURITY COUNCIL AND US ROLE IN IT BUT MANY THINGS HAVE CHANGED REGARDING LATIN AMERICA AND US POSITION IN IT. REGARDLESS OF PANAMA CANAL IMPORTANCE AND NUMBER OF TIMES CANAL AGREEMENT WAS REVISED THIS CENTURY, LATIN AMERICA WINDS STARTED RECENTLY TO BLOW AWAY FROM NORTHERN NEIGHBOR IN SERIOUS AND DISTURBING MANNER. STUNNING PERONIAN TRIUMPH WAS MORE THAN WASHINGTON EXPECTED AND SUCCESS OF PRESIDENT ALLENDE IN RECENT CHILEAN ELECTIONS WAS AGAINST ALL US EXPECTATIONS AND ASPIRATIONS. ADDED TO THIS IS OPENNESS OF MOST LATIN AMERICA STATES, PARTICULARLY MEXICO, TOWARD USSR AND CHINA AND INDEPENDENT POLICIES OF STATES LIKE PERU AND ECUADOR, ADDED TO THEM OF COURSE, CUBA. THIS DOES NOT MEAN LATIN AMERICA HAS LIBERATED ITSELF FROM US INFLUENCE. BUT EXPERIENCES LIKE THOSE OF CHILE AND ARGENTINA ARE BOUND TO AROUSE CONCERN IN WASHINGTON BECAUSE VETO CANNOT BE APPLIED EVERYWHERE."

5. CONSERVATIVE AL HAYAT SAW IN CONVENING OF SECURITY UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNCIL IN PANAMA " A CHALLENGE TO US SPECIAL POSITION AT UN

IN ITS CAPACITY AS FOUNDING AND HOST STATE THAT IS
COTTRIBUTING MORE T
AN 30 PERCENT OF UN BUDGET.. SECURITY
COUNCIL WAS HELD IN PANAMA TO CONSIDER ITS COMPLAINT
AGAINST US AND ITS REQUEST FOR ENDING OF WASHINGTON' S
OCCUPATION OF CANAL. MERE FACT THAT COUNCIL HAS
DISCUSSED THIS REQUEST IS SUCCESS FOR PANAMA AND STATES
THAT HAVE SIMILAR DEMANDS. US ATTITUDE WAS DELICATE
DURING DEBATE BECAUSE PANAMA CANAL IS VITAL VEIN FOR US.
IT LINKS US FLEETS IN ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC AND US PORTS
ON WEST AND EAST COASTS. US CONSIDERS CANAL ALMOST HER
PROPERTY BECAUSE SHE DUG CANAL AT HER EXPENSE AND
CONSTRUCTED RAILWAY LINE ALONG IT. MORE THAN TWO THIRDS
OF NAVIGATION THROUGH CANAL IS AMERICAN AND PANAMA' S PAPER
MONEY IS DOLLAR. THAT IS WHY US DELEGATE SAID SECURITY
COUNCIL HAS NO RIGHT TO CONSIDER MATTER BECAUSE US PRESENCE
IN CANAL IS LEGAL BASED ON PERMANENT TREATY HELD IN 1904."
MALIK

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